

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 010404

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS AMMAN BEIRUT
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SUBJECT: SADAT'S ANWAR INTERVIEW: PART II

REF: FBIS BE 091107

1. CAIRO ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS JAN 10 PUBLISHED TEXT OF PART II
OF SADAT'S INTERVIEW OF JAN 7 WITH BEIRUT DAILY AL-ANWAR. ALTHOUGH
FBIS CARRIED TEXT, FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. GENEVA CONFERENCE. SADAT SAID GENEVA CONFERENCE IS ONLY
PLACE TO ESTABLISH AREA PEACE, BUT THAT SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE
REQUIRES TWO PRE-CONDITIONS: A) ARAB UNITY AND B) AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TWO SUPER POWERS THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD SUCCEED, WHICH
IS NECESSARY TO AVOID RETURN TO STATE OF POLARIZATION IN WHICH
USSR WOULD APPEAR AS SOLE ARAB DEFENDER WHILE USG WOULD SUPPORT
ISRAEL.

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3. PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL. UNTIL GENEVA RESUMES, PRESIDENT CONTINUED,

WE SHOULD REJECT ANY OPPORTUNITY WHICH MAY ARISE FOR OTHER STEPS TOWARD PEACE. CHANCE WAS LOST LAST SUMMER BECAUSE US WAS IMMERSSED IN DOMESTIC ISSUES. ONLY US CAN MAKE ISRAEL MOVE, AND "I CAN SAY I HAVE NOT LOST HOPE". IN COMING STAGE WE WOULD BE SATISFIED IF WE COULD REACH "FURTHEST POINT IN SINAI AND THE GOLAN, AND REGAIN JERUSALEM". IF THE AIM IS TO DEFUSE CURRENT EXPLOSIVE SITUATION, "THE WITHDRAWAL CAN BE A MERE STAGE ON THE THREE FRONTS AND WE COULD SIT AT GENEVA IN A DEFUSED CLIMATE."

4. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS. SADAT SAID HE HAS HEARD AND READ OF SUCH PLANS. THEIR PURPOSE IS TO SOW DISCORD IN ARAB RANKS BUT "UP TO THIS MOMENT ON JAN 7...NO SPECIFIC OFFER HAS REACHED ME FOR ME TO ANSWER".

5. SUDANESE MEDIATION. SADAT SAID LIBYA STOPPED "SUPPORT", CUT OFF OIL, AND DEMANDED ITS ARMS BACK, AND "WE THANKED IT". LIBYA TOOK NO POLITICAL PART AT RABAT. RESULT OF SUDANESE MEDIATION IS AGREEMENT FOR MEETING BY INTERIOR MINISTERS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES IN JANUARY TO PREPARE FOR LATER HEAD OF STATE MEETING.

6. IRAQ/IRAN. SADAT SAID HE IS CONFIDENT HE CAN ATTAIN HIS "AIM" VIZ. IMPROVEMENT IN IRANIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS.

7. USG "OIL THREATS". STATEMENTS BEING ISSUED BY KISSINGER AND SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT FORD ARE "MOST REGRETTABLE". STATE DEPARTMENT'S SAYING ARAB COUNTRIES DID NOT COMMENT IS INCORRECT. WE SENT IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO KISSINGER. "THERE IS AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN US, AND WE WILL DESSEMINATE IT AT THE PROPER TIME." I AGREE WITH BOUMEDIENE'S STATEMENT THAT "WE PREFER TO BLOW UP OIL WELLS BEFORE THEY LAY HANDS ON THEM, SHOULD THEY THINK OF DOING SO." ELTS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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